

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for storing and transporting piece goods, in particular articles whose dimensions in at least one or two mutually perpendicular directions are clearly larger than in the remaining third direction in space, wherein the articles are received in substantially U-shaped pockets (4, 5) which are formed from a flexible web material and which are arranged in a support stand or frame (2, 3), wherein the pockets (4, 5) are suspended at one or more points in the proximity of their upper edge, characterised in that the pockets (4, 5) additionally have at least one fixing in the region of 10 their lower edge or below their lower edge.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1 characterised in that the fixing is mounted to the pockets (4, 5) in the proximity of a lateral loading opening (14).

3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 characterised in that the fixing is in the proximity of the two lower ends of a U-shaped pocket (4, 5).

4. Apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 3 characterised in that the fixing of the lower edge of the pockets (4, 5) is afforded with a defined tensioning force.

5. Apparatus according to claim 4 characterised in that the defined tensioning force is given by the weight of an article hanging on the pocket (4, 5).

6. Apparatus according to claim 4 or claim 5 characterised in that the tensioning force of 25 the fixing is produced solely or additionally by an elastic aid.

7. Apparatus according to one of claims 4 and 5 characterised in that the lateral limbs (11, 12) of the U-shape of the U-shaped pockets (4, 5) or a downwardly directed prolongation portion thereof have respective openings or eyes (9) through which is arranged a bar (6) which extends 30 transversely through the pocket and the weight of which defines the downwardly directed tensioning force at the side walls (11, 12) of the pockets (4, 5).

8. Apparatus according to claim 7 characterised in that the ends of the bar (6) are accommodated in substantially vertically extending guides (7).

35 9. Apparatus according to claim 7 or claim 8 characterised in that the bar (6) is biased away from the pockets (4, 5) through the lower eyes (9) or openings by elastic aids such as for example rubber bands or the like.

10. Apparatus according to one of claims 8 and 9 characterised in that the guides (7) for the bar ends (6) have a securing means to prevent the bar ends from unintentionally sliding out of the guide.

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11. Apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 10 characterised in that in their interior the pockets (4, 5) have a transverse portion (13) extending transversely between the pocket walls.

10. 12. Apparatus according to claim 11 characterised in that the transverse portion (21) is flexible and preferably elastic.

15. 13. Apparatus according to claim 11 or claim 12 characterised in that there is provided at least one holding element (22) which extends substantially in the longitudinal direction along a pocket wall (11, 12) in the interior thereof and which is also preferably flexible and elastic.

20. 14. Apparatus according to claim 13 characterised in that an end of the transverse portion (21) is connected to the holding element (22) which extends in the longitudinal direction.

25. 15. Apparatus according to claim 13 or claim 14 characterised in that provided on both sides in the interior of the pockets (4, 5) is a respective holding element (22) extending substantially in the longitudinal direction, the transverse portion (13) extending between said holding elements (22).

30. 16. Apparatus according to claim 15 characterised in that the holding elements (22) and the transverse portion (13) substantially define an H-shape, wherein the ends of respective ones of the limbs of the H-shape (22) are secured to two points of a wall (11, 12) of the pocket (4, 5) or pass through same there.

35. 17. Apparatus according to claim 15 or claim 16 characterised in that the holding elements (22) and the transverse portion (13) are made in one piece from elastic material.

18. Apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 17 characterised in that elastic holding elements are mounted to the lower edge of the U-shaped pockets in such a way that upon downward movement of the upper frame portions holding the pockets they prevent the pockets from moving out of the frame.